Nathan Brinling

AP Literature and Composition

Mr. Lane

6 January 2010

Explication Reflection

I feel that there is a lot that I can still improve on as a writer. I have always found a struggle analyzing poems. I can easily stare at a poem for ten minutes and have no clue what is going on. I improve with each poem I read, but I would consider analyzing poems one of my weaknesses. I also need help with the active and passive voice. I know the difference between the two voices, but I do not consciously think about the passive voice while I am writing. Improvements in analyzing poems and the active and passive voice would help my writing tremendously.

As I wrote my Explication, I found myself repeating the same points. I felt that I did not pick a poem with enough literary devices to work with. I would have been much better suited to choose a prompt with many literary devices that are easier to describe. I believe that my lack of points to make in my essay led to lapses in organization. I fit in an extra sentence here and there not because it was needed, but because there was not enough information and points for me to make in my essay. I also wish I chose a poem with more modern language. It would have been much easier to choose a poem with language that the reader would understand clearer. Next time, I will make sure to choose a prompt with modern language and more information that would give me more to write about.

From the comments made on my paper, I need to improve on my lower order concerns. This would be beneficial to not only my writing, but also to the amount of time I spend on revisions and skills pages. There were a variety of different areas in which I made errors. The only way this will improve is writing on a more consistent basis. With a few revisions, I felt that my explication was a good representation of my writing skill.